



KidsClick – Clip It!

By Kristine Tardiff, Youth Services Specialist

It's September. Summer reading programs are a distant memory. Libraries and schools have started another school year. Children are descending on you in droves, asking for help with school assignments. It seems the assignments don't change much. But more and more of you are using the web to help kids locate the information they need. I'm sure it seems that the number of websites is overwhelming. Where to begin? Many of you probably have several tried-and-true sites that you rely on while some of you are frustrated by the proliferation of dot com sites that are more show than substance.

One site that I often return to is KidsClick. KidsClick is a directory style search site designed by librarians specifically for kids; the good news is there is no advertising on this site. Their list of subjects is extensive and comprehensive.

Here's a hidden benefit for librarians and library staff; scroll down to the sentence "What does this page look like through a librarian's eyes?" Voila! Instant Dewey classification. KidsClick is a real gem and I highly recommend it. Below I've listed several subjects within KidsClick that I'm sure you can use such as exploration, experiments, and animals.



KidsClick

www.kidsclick.org

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www.kidsclick.org

KidsClick - EXPLORATION

<http://www.kidsclick.org/cgi-bin/searchkids.pl?searchtype=subject&keywords=exploration&title=Exploration>

KidsClick - EXPERIMENTS

<http://www.kidsclick.org/cgi-bin/searchkids.pl?searchtype=subject&keywords=experiments&title=Experiments>

KidsClick - ANIMALS

<http://www.kidsclick.org/midanim.html>

Other topics that certainly find their way to our desks include state and country reports as well as profiles of U.S. presidents. The following sites are good but by no means comprehensive.

STATELY KNOWLEDGE

<http://www.ipl.org/youth/stateknow/>

POTUS @ Presidents of the United States

<http://www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS/>

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

Running low on Cliff or Monarch notes? Is that research paper on The Scarlet Letter due tomorrow? SparkNotes: Literature (<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/.dir/>) is a good source for detailed research on literature, classics, philosophy, Shakespeare, and other novels often assigned in high school English classes. See also SparkNotes for a multitude of other subjects at www.sparknotes.com.

A good general homework site that kids will enjoy is Kid Info at <http://www.kidinfo.com>.

I've listed below other good sites to explore and use with kids and teens. There are many excellent sites; these are just a few of them to get your started or add to your repertoire of helpful sites.

Look up math questions under AAA Math at <http://www.aaamath.com/index.html>.

Knowledge best found in the encyclopedia format can be found at Encyclopedia.com (<http://www.encyclopedia.com>).

A good general homework site that kids will enjoy is Kid Info at <http://www.kidinfo.com>.

Reading lists for children are located at Cool Reading Lists at Multnomah County at <http://www.multnomah.lib.orus/lib/kids/read3.html>.

Also, check out Multnomah's excellent Homework Center at <http://www.multnomah.lib.orus/lib/homework/>.

For a helpful guide to Grammar and Writing see <http://ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>.

When children need information on Authors and Illustrators, try <http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/special/kay/author.html>.

The Why Files is a great source for information on the Science behind the news. Their website is <http://whyfiles.org/>.

I hope these websites will help you solve some of your most common reference questions for patrons of any age.

P.S. Some of these website addresses are long. To spare your typing skills you can also find them at the Library of Michigan's website <http://www.libraryofmichigan.org/publications/accessnewsletter.html>.

Michigan Electronic Library @ Gateway Supreme

When you click on <http://mel.org/children/articles.html> you enter a gateway into many excellent websites for kids.

The first:

http://infotrac.galegroup.com/k12/infomark/0/1/1/purl=rc6_PTOM?sw_aep=lom_accessmich# is the Kid's Edition of Infotrac. Use it to search encyclopedias, magazines, maps, and newspapers.

The second:

<http://www.elibrary.com/s/k6/> takes you to the Electric Library Elementary. This site is a portal to the full-text of hundreds of popular magazines and scholarly journals, current newspapers and news wires, photographs and maps, children's publications, historical sources, and articles from ethnic publications.

A special feature of Electric Library Elementary is television and radio transcripts from ABC Good Morning America, ABC Primetime Live, ABC World News, CBS Evening News, CBS This Morning, and Fox News.

The third:

<http://discoverer3.sirs.com/cgi-bin/disfrontpage?CUSTNUM=MI5761&STARTPAGE=none&RES=N&REN=N&GOV=N&DIS=Y&T=997899646&C=1142859586> whisks you to SIRS Discoverer Deluxe on the web. Search this site for current events geared to younger ages, "spotlight topic of the month," World Almanac for Kids, and a full-text version of Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopedia. All sites in SIRS include tutorials, workbooks, and searching tips.

All of these databases are made available to Michigan residents through their local libraries by AccessMichigan, a project funded by the Library of Michigan.